

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 11-12, 14, and 20 are amended. New Claims 24-27 are added. The amendments are fully supported by the specification. No new matter has been added. Claims 2-4, 11-12, and 14 are amended to be consistent with Claim 1, from which they depend. Claim 9 is cancelled. Claims 1-4, 11-14, and 20-27 are pending and are submitted for further consideration in view of the following remarks.

Claim Amendments

Applicant has amended Claim 1 to read as follows:

A hair piece for connection with basic hair comprising:

a plurality of hair bundles each comprising a number of parallel hairs, each hair bundle having a free and a bound end,

an elongated weaving band comprising two elongated strips, wherein each strip is connected to the bound end of one or more hair bundles, wherein each strip further comprises one or more weaving elements and wherein hairs of the one or more hair bundles are interconnected individually or in groups with the weaving elements of the strips,

connection openings configured to accept basic hair, and

connection elements connecting the two strips.

Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments are fully supported at least by Figures 3 and 4 and by paragraphs [0050]-[0052]. The amendments to Claims 2-4, 11-12, and 14 are consistent with the amendment to Claim 1 and add no new matter.

Applicant has amended Claim 20 to read as follows:

A method for attaching into basic hair a hair piece having at least a first hair bundle and a second hair bundle, each hair bundle comprising a

number of parallel hairs and having a free end and a bound end, the first and second hair bundles being attached to opposite edges of an elongated weaving band, said elongated weaving band comprising one or more strips, the method comprising the following steps:

- a) unfolding the hair piece in a substantially flat plane in such a way that the free ends of the hair bundles are extending in opposite directions with respect to each other,
- b) positioning the weaving band in close proximity to the basic hair, such that the hair bundles remain extended in opposite directions,
- c) passing at least one time a number of basic hairs through a connection opening of the hair piece,
- d) interconnecting the passed through basic hairs with the weaving band or with other basic hair,
- e) repeating the steps c) through d) for another connection opening located in the weaving band until the hair piece is sufficiently fixedly connected with the basic hair along the length of the weaving band.

Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments are fully supported at least by Figures 3 and 4 and by paragraph [0050].

Claim Objections

Claims 20-23 were objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but were allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of that base claim. Applicant thanks the Examiner for finding that these claims are allowable subject matter and has amended Claim 20 to be an independent claim. Although not all of the limitations of original base Claim 1 are included in the amendment to Claim 20, it is respectfully submitted that the necessary definition of the hair piece has now been provided in this claim. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims

20-23 are in condition for allowance, requests that the objections be withdrawn, and that the claims be reconsidered.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-4, 9, and 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hargrett (U.S. Patent No. 5,357,986). Claim 9 is canceled without prejudice in the interests of expeditious prosecution. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited prior art does not anticipate the pending claims under section 102(b) and respectfully disagrees with and traverses the Examiner's characterization of Applicant's claims and the prior art.

The prior art, Hargrett, discloses attaching a weave consisting of a "weft of hair" (24) to a user's basic hair (26) by means of interweaving a "base cord" (Hargrett Figure 1) with the user's basic hair (26) and then attaching that weft to the base cord. See Hargrett Figure 3 and Hargrett column 2, lines 59-65. The base cord includes a ribbon (10) and rings (12) attached to the ribbon by knotting the ribbon (14) around them. See Hargrett Figure 3 and Hargrett column 2, lines 39-46. The base cord is interwoven into the user's basic hair (26) by weaving it into the basic hair to form a "flat braid" (16). (See Hargrett Figure 3 and Hargrett column 2, lines 54-58) Once the base cord is woven into the user's basic hair, Hargrett teaches that the user connects the two sets of rings (12) (those on the weft edge and those on the flat braid) with needle and thread. (See Hargrett Figures 3 and 4 and Hargrett column 2 line 66 – column 3 line 11 and column 3 lines 30-52)

Applicant's Claim 1 recites a number of limitations that are not taught by the cited prior art. For example, it recites that "an elongated weaving band comprising two elongated strips connected to the bound end of one or more hair bundles". Applicant respectfully submits that Hargrett does not disclose this. For example, it does not disclose more than one "weft of hair" in a single hair piece. It also does not disclose a hair piece with more than one weft of hair attached to a "flat braid", "base cord", "ribbon", or other component.

Applicant's Claim 1 also recites "connection elements connecting the two strips". Hargrett discloses interweaving the user's basic hair with a base cord to form a flat braid. Applicant respectfully submits that neither this interweaving nor the flat braid itself is analogous

to the “connection elements” of Claim 1 at least because they do not connect elements analogous to Claim 1’s “two strips”. Instead, they connect the user’s basic hair to the weft of hair. Similarly, Applicant respectfully submits that the thread connecting the two sets of rings in Hargrett also does not teach Claim 1’s “connection elements”. This is at least because the set of rings in the flat braid is not a “strip” “connected to the bound end of one or more hair bundles” as recited in Claim 1.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) objections to Claims 1-4, 11-14, and 20-23 and reconsider the claims, and respectfully submits those claims are in condition for allowance.

New Claims

New Claim 24 recites a hair piece comprising at least a first hair bundle and a second hair bundle, being attached to opposite edges of an elongated weaving band. The elongated weaving band is configured to fold over such that the free ends of all the hair bundles extend downward after hair piece installation. This is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record. New Claims 25-27 depend from Claim 24. It is respectfully submitted that these new claims are also in condition for allowance.

Summary and Conclusion

Claims 1-4, 11-14, and 20-25 are pending. Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and requests that all objections and rejections be withdrawn. Applicants respectfully submits the pending claims for further consideration in light of these amendment and remarks

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicant is not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this

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application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicant has made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

Co-Pending Applications of Assignee

Applicant wishes to draw the Examiner's attention to the following co-pending application of the present application's assignee.

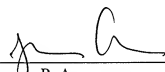
Docket No.	Serial No.	Title	Filed
MULLE50.002APC	12/524,857	HAIR PIECE PROVIDED WITH A WAVE-FORM WEAVING BAND	July 28, 2009

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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